LITTLE BLUE BOOK NO. 1065
Edited by E. Haldeman-Julius

Lives of the U. S. Presidents

George Milburn

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HALDEMAN-JULIUS COMPANY
GIRARD, KANSAS

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LIVES OF THE U. S. PRESIDENTS

GEORGE WASHINGTON

George Washington was born at Pope's Creek, Virginia, February 22, 1732, the eldest of five children by his father's second wife. His father, Augustine Washington, an American-born planter of some means, died when George was 11 years old. Shortly before his death he removed with his family to another estate which lay along the banks of the Rappahannock River. There young Washington spent his early boyhood and received a rudimentary education at the hands of one Hobby, parish sexton. At school he displayed a marked aptitude for mathematics, and this led to his being trained as a surveyor.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

The youth grew apace and when he was 14 his half-brother Lawrence, an officer in the British navy, secured for him a mid-shipman's warrant. However, the story goes that at parting his mother's tears changed George's decision to enter the English service, and so the history of a nation. Two years later he was

engaged as a surveyor on the unbounded estate of Lord Fairfax.

From the rugged, even perilous, life in the wilderness that was then Virginia, Washington emerged at the age of 19 a young giant. At this time he was appointed adjutant-general, with the rank of major, in the colony's militia, whose duty it was to protect English territory from the intrusions of the Indians and the French.

Dinwiddie, governor of the colony, selected the youth to head a party bearing a message of protest to the commandant of the intruding French, stationed at the headwaters of the Ohio River. Washington, bearing the French reply which was the hat-drop for the beginning of the French and Indian War, made his return through 600 miles of primeval wilderness in the bleak winter of 1753. Present at the defeat of Braddock's army by the French and Indians in 1755, the young officer continued to serve in the British army until peace was declared in 1759.

In the same year Washington married the wealthy widow Martha Custis, and, now at the age of 27, was delegated to the Virginia House of Burgesses. Later he retired to his plantation to live quietly until the revolt of the American colonies in 1775 caused his return to public life as a delegate to the first and second Continental Congresses. At the latter of these he was appointed commander-in-chief of the revolutionary forces, and he assumed his command at Cambridge, Massachusetts, July 3, 1775. From that time on until the final sur-

render of the British at Yorktown, October 19, 1781, he was the leading spirit of the American Revolution.

Having served with distinction as a military leader, George Washington began an enviable political career by presiding at the constitutional convention of 1787. Unanimously chosen as the first president for these United States, he was inaugurated at New York, April 30, 1789, and served two terms, retiring in March, 1797.

Now in his sixty-fifth year, Washington went back to his Mount Vernon estate and the uneventful life of a country gentleman. In the winter of 1799 his riding for several hours in a cold drizzle developed bronchitis. He died December 14, 1799.

JOHN ADAMS

John Adams was born in Braintree (Quincy), Massachusetts, October 31, 1735, the eldest son of moderately wealthy parents. He was graduated from Harvard in 1755, taught school in Worcester for a short time, studied law, and in 1758 hung up his shingle. At the age of 29 he was married to Abigail Smith, prominent in New England society.

The tempestuous reign of George III had begun, and Adams was a febrile American patriot. He led a protest against the Stamp Act in Massachusetts which was quieted only when that measure was repealed by Britain. Nevertheless, he acted as a counsel for the eight

British soldiers indicted after the so-called Boston Massacre of March 5, 1770 (Adams had taken up his residence in Boston some two years before) and secured the acquittal of all except two. These were convicted of manslaughter, and were branded.

JOHN ADAMS

The young lawyer continued in his patriotic utterances, however, and when the first Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia, September 5, 1774, he was one of the five delegates from Massachusetts. He was active in drafting resolutions on colonial rights, and when he returned to Boston he was chosen as a member of a revolutionary congress which assembled at Concord. The Battle of Lexington was fought in April, and when the second Continental Congress convened at Philadelphia, May 10, 1775, John Adams was there with his cousin Samuel. Here he proposed George Washington as commander-in-chief of the revolutionary forces. From this time on until October 21, 1788 (the last recorded session) the congress was in continuous existence, although it shifted its quarters with the tide of war. And all these 13 years Adams busied himself with drawing up resolutions and regulations. He seconded a motion for a declara-

tion of independence on the seventh of June, 1776, and his vigorous speeches in support of the resolution did more than any other one thing to insure the final signing and adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

In subsequent years John Adams served as commissioner to France (1777-1778), peace commissioner to Great Britain (1780), minister to Holland (1780-1782) where he negotiated a Dutch loan of two million dollars, first American minister to Great Britain (1785-1788) after the English recognized American independence in 1783, and first vice-president of the United States (1789-1797).

Under Washington's administration the two major political parties of the nation came into being: the Federalist (corresponding to present-day Republican), and the Republican (later re-named Democratic). Adams was aligned with the Federalists, and as their presidential nominee in 1796, was elected by a narrow margin over Thomas Jefferson, a Republican candidate, who, in accordance with the practice of the time, became vice-president.

John Adams had anything but a happy administration. England and France were at war and the States were torn between divergent sympathies. War with France seemed inevitable at one time, and several naval encounters actually occurred. Despite his fiery patriotism, Adams was a stern, vain sort, and was not generally liked. When he came up for re-election in 1800 he was defeated by Thomas Jefferson. He refused to be present at Jefferson's

inauguration, retired from public life completely and spent his remaining years at his home in Braintree where he died July 4, 1826, fifty years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, which Jefferson had written and he had supported so fervently.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Thomas Jefferson was born at Shadwell, Virginia, April 2, 1743, the third child of a well-to-do plantation owner. Although his father died when Thomas was but 14, the boy received thorough preparatory schooling and entered the College of William and Mary. Here he distinguished himself as an exceptional student, became proficient in Latin, Greek, French, Italian, Spanish and as an English stylist. After his graduation he took up the practice of law, dividing his attention between that and his Virginia estate, with remarkable success at both.

He was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses in May, 1769. Washington, it will be recalled, was a member of the same body.

Three years later Jefferson was married to a widow and heiress, Martha Skelton, increasing his estate by some 40,000 acres and 135 Negroes. He was well settled to the life of a prosperous farmer when the imminent revolution brought him into public life once more. For the Virginia delegation to the first Continental Congress he drafted the instruction and at a convention in Richmond, March, 1775, he was one of three commanders selected to recruit and drill infantry and cavalry com-

panies for the impending war. A few months later he was called to fill Washington's vacancy in the second Continental Congress.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

As chairman of the committee to frame a declaration of independence, Jefferson was author of that now celebrated document. In writing it, however, he neglected to admit a divine guidance, and minor changes in that respect were made before it was finally adopted by the Congress.

A member of the Virginia state legislature, he was active in framing a constitution which has served as a model. Among other things, he secured a complete severance of church and state. In January, 1779, he succeeded Patrick Henry as governor of Virginia. This section of the country was particularly harassed by the British, the crisis of the American Revolution was at hand, and Jefferson was as tireless in his military activities as he had previously been in his civil efforts. Peace in October, 1781, allowed him to return to his estate at Monticello which had been sadly used by the rigors of war.

In 1783 he was elected to Congress, became active in instituting a decimal monetary system and in preparing a manual of parliamen-

tary law, used by Congress to this day. A year later he was appointed ambassador to France, there saw the bloody French revolution run its course, and returned to America in 1789 to become Secretary of State under Washington. The fact that his convictions were at variance with those of Alexander Hamilton, secretary of finance, made the cabinet position a disagreeable one, however, and he prevailed on Washington to accept his resignation (1794).

Two years later John Adams defeated him in his candidacy for the Presidency by a narrow margin, and he became Vice-President. In the election of 1800, Jefferson and Aaron Burr were tied for the office, each having received 73 electoral votes. The election thus passed into the House of Representatives, where, after long deliberation, Jefferson was elected, and Jefferson began serving the first of his two momentous administrations.

While Thomas Jefferson was president, the Louisiana Purchase was made (1803), Lewis and Clarke made their celebrated expedition of exploration (1804-1806), the short-lived war with Tripoli was fought, and Robert Fulton invented his steam-boat (1807).

At the close of his second administration Jefferson retired to his Monticello estate, where he became the embodiment of Southern hospitality. He died July 4, 1826.

JAMES MADISON

James Madison was born at Port Conway, Virginia, March 16, 1751. He was given careful preparatory schooling, entered Princeton and

was graduated in 1772, although he continued with post-graduate work for another year.

An ardent patriot, in 1774 he was made a member of his county's "safety committee" and two years later was a delegate to the Virginia constitutional convention where he was influential in passing certain religious freedom measures. After the state constitution had been adopted he was a member of the first state legislature. At the age of 39 he was chosen a delegate to the Continental Congress and served in that capacity until 1784, when he was re-elected to the Virginia legislature. Again he continued in his policy of tolerance and led the fight against an attempt to pass a law providing for a religious education tax, to mention but one of his beneficent enactments.

JAMES MADISON

In September, 1786 he was a delegate to the first constitutional convention, and at the second convention in May, 1787, when the Constitution of the United States was adopted, he contributed as much as any other one man to the framing of that instrument. In leading the bitter debate in favor of the adoption of the Constitution by his native state, he incurred the enmity of Patrick Henry and Richard Henry Lee, and on this account failed in his

candidacy for a state senatorship. Soon after, however, he was elected to the first national House of Representatives where he secured the passage of tariff regulations, the creation of the departments of Foreign Affairs, of the Treasury and of War. He offered there 12 amendments to the Constitution, ten of which were adopted in 1791. Not until the close of Washington's second administration did Madison withdraw to private life.

Two years previous to this he married a beautiful young widow, Dolly Payne Todd, who afterward became one of the most brilliant and vivacious mistresses the White House has ever known.

Persevering in his liberal policy, he led a vigorous protest against the Alien and Sedition Laws (passed in 1798; repealed in 1800 and 1801) and on the strength of this was again sent to the Virginia legislature in 1799. Not long after he resigned to accept President Jefferson's request that Madison become his Secretary of State.

By the close of Jefferson's second term James Madison had so grown in the esteem of the people he was selected as the Republican presidential candidate, and was elected by a large majority. In 1812 he was re-elected.

It was during his second administration that the War of 1812 was fought. Madison was a statesman rather than a general, and the fight was conducted in so blundering and feeble a fashion that, with the exception of several naval victories, the United States was continually at England's mercy. This culminated,

August, 1814, in the president and his company's being forced to flee the City of Washington, leaving it to be sacked by the British. Peace came early in 1815.

When his second term was finished, Madison retired to Montpelier, his beautiful Virginia estate, and there spent his tranquil last years. He died June 28, 1836.

JAMES MONROE

James Monroe was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, April 28, 1758. He was a student in William and Mary College at the time of the outbreak of the American Revolution, and in 1776, at the age of 18, he left school to enlist in the colonial army. He served with distinction at Trenton, Brandywine and Monmouth, for which he was cited by General Washington.

JAMES MONROE

Monroe began his political carreer in 1782 as a member of the executive council of the Virginia assembly. Three times his state sent him as a representative in the Congress of Confederation, and in 1784 he was selected as one of nine judges to decide a boundary dispute between New York and Massachusetts.

In Virginia he aligned himself with the party opposing the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, and it is doubtful if he ever had full confidence in that instrument.

At the expiration of his term in Congress (1786) he retired to Fredericksburg, Virginia, to take up the practice of law, but at the death of William Grayson, one of the first United States Senators from Virginia, he was elected to serve the unexpired term, and he remained in the Senate from December 6, 1790, until May, 1794. At that time he was appointed an envoy to France by Washington. Once in that country, however, his expressions of American amiability toward the French grew so indiscreet as to cause his recall a short time later.

On his return to America, he was in 1799, elected governor of Virginia, holding that office until 1802 when President Jefferson sent him as an envoy to France once more. There he assisted in negotiating the Louisiana Purchase. That business completed in 1803, he visited Spain in an unsuccessful effort to secure the cession of Florida, went to London to assist in concluding a treaty of peace with Great Britain, but the pact was so unsatisfactory to Jefferson it was never sent to the Senate. When he came home his district sent him to the Virginia Assembly for a third term, and in 1811 he was elected governor of the state for a second time, but he declined the office to accept the position of Secretary of State in Madison's cabinet. This place he occupied from 1811 until 1817, withal acting as

Secretary of War for the last two years of the War of 1812 (1814-1815).

In 1816, Monroe was the Anti-Federalist presidential candidate, and received a large majority of the electoral votes. Again, in 1820, when he came up for re-election, only one electoral vote was cast against him, and that, it is said, for no more reason than to preserve the Washingtonian tradition. During Monroe's administration Florida was purchased from Spain for five million dollars, four new states were admitted to the Union (Mississippi in 1817, Alabama in 1819, Maine in 1820, and Missouri in 1821), and there was an era of general prosperity. Notable enactments were the Missouri Compromise, which accepted the entrance of Missouri as a slave state, but excluded slavery from all new territories west of the Mississippi River and north of Missouri's southern boundary; and the formulation of the celebrated Monroe Doctrine.*

Retiring from public life at the close of his second term, Monroe divided his time between his home at Oak Hill, in Virginia, and New York City, where he died July 4, 1831.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

John Quincy Adams was born at Braintree, Massachusetts, July 11, 1767, the son of the second President of the United States. As the son of a diplomat, his childhood training was enviable. He accompanied his father to France at the age of ten and was sent to school in

*Given in Little Blue Book No. 687.

Paris. A year later he was brought back to America, only to be taken to Amsterdam, Holland, where he attended school. Later he entered the University of Leyden, and two years later went to Russia as the private secretary of his father's secretary of legation. Shortly after this he made a six months' tour of the continent alone. In 1785 the youth returned to America, entered Harvard, was graduated in 1788, studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1791. At the age of thirty his father, the president, appointed him American minister to Germany.

When Jefferson became president in 1801, the younger Adams returned to Boston, where a year later he was elected to the state senate, and in 1803 United States Senator. In this position his situation was made so intolerable by his father's enemies that he resigned some time before his term expired and became an English professor at Harvard. His retirement was not for long, however. Madison became president in 1809, and he nominated Adams as minister to Russia. The Senate reluctantly confirmed the nomination, and for the next four years the young envoy was present at the Napoleonic play in Europe. In

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

1815 he was appointed minister to England, but two years later Monroe summoned him to America to become Secretary of State, and for the next eight years he was closely connected with the most important events of that president's administrations, among which was the formulation of the Monroe Doctrine.

Although John Quincy Adams, like his father, had few personal friends, his ability was recognized to such an extent that he received 88 of the electoral votes cast in the election of 1824. Andrew Jackson, however, received 99 votes, William H. Crawford, Secretary of the Treasury, 41 and Henry Clay, Speaker of the House, 37. For a second time the presidential election was forced into the House of Representatives, and when Clay threw his support to Adams, the Massachusetts man was victorious. When Adams, after his inauguration, chose Clay as his Secretary of State, Jackson's party charged that that was the price of the presidency and a fruitless investigation was made.

John Quincy Adams was an independent sort, and not by any means the hail-fellow-well-met. He would have none of the spoils system, which Jackson later made famous, and, while his term was blessed with general prosperity, it was marred by the bitterest feelings. Jackson easily defeated him in the presidential campaign of 1828. Adams was not the one to retire, disgruntled, to private life. He was elected to the House of Representatives on an anti-Free Mason ticket in 1831 and he continued in that office until his death. His at-

tacks on slavery won him renewed distinction.

Adams died February 23, 1848. Two days before, in the House of Representatives, he had had a paralytic stroke. He was carried unconscious into the Speaker's room. That was his death chamber.

ANDREW JACKSON

Andrew Jackson was born March 15, 1767. He was of Scotch and Irish parentage. The place of his birth has never been decided, since Jackson contended that it was in South Carolina, and authorities generally agree that it was in Union County, North Carolina. His father died while he was a baby, and his poverty-stricken mother could afford him only the most meager schooling. When the Revolution came the country around his home was sadly harassed by the British. Jackson's two older brothers died as British prisoners, and Andrew, also in the enemy's hands, caught smallpox. His mother was on her way to care for him when she fell ill and died. Thus young Jackson faced the world alone, and he emerged from the Revolution with an ingrained hatred for England.

ANDREW JACKSON

He worked as a saddle-maker for a time,

and then in 1784 he began reading law at Salisbury, North Carolina, and later began a dilatory practice. In October, 1788, he went to Nashville, which was then included in the state of North Carolina, where he became the prosecuting attorney for that district. He was quite as lawless in enforcing the law as others had been in breaking it, and he quickly became a knock-down-drag-out fighter of reputation and a pistol dueler of renown.

When the Tennessee constitutional convention met at Nashville in January, 1796, Andrew Jackson was a delegate. A short time after he was elected as Tennessee's first representative in the national congress, and later filled the unexpired term of a United States Senator from Tennessee who had been expelled. Politics was so distasteful to Jackson that he resigned from office in April, 1798, but the same year he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. He resigned from that office in 1804 to devote his attention to the state militia, having been made a major-general in 1801. An Indian massacre occurred at Fort Mimms, Alabama, in August, 1813, and Jackson led a seven months' campaign against the Creeks, acquitting himself so well in command that he was made a major-general in the United States army. In the War of 1812 he stormed and captured Pensacola, a Spanish possession aiding Great Britain, then shifted his force to New Orleans, where, January 8, 1815, he repulsed the British attack in the most brilliant American land victory of the entire war.

Jackson continued his Indian fighting in the South after peace with England was declared, and when the Florida Purchase treaty was ratified in 1821 he was made governor of the territory. In 1823 he returned to the United States Senate. His popularity grew, and, as has been noted, he received the plurality of electoral votes for president in 1824, yet failed to be elected. In 1828, however, his presidential campaign was victorious.

Jackson had two tempestuous administrations. To begin with, his inaugural ball was a drunken orgy. He instituted a rigorous spoils system, and paid off his political debts with public offices. With characteristic aggressiveness he crippled the United States Bank by removing government deposits and created a financial bubble by distributing this surplus of 28 millions among state banks. When, in 1832, South Carolina declared the high protective tariff unconstitutional and threatened to secede from the Union, he swore hot oaths and dispatched a military force to Charleston harbor. Only the tact of the commander and a Congressional compromise averted a rebellion.

At the close of his second administration, in March, 1837, Andrew Jackson left Washington, escaping by a hair's breadth the deluge. Along his journey he was received with acclaim, a nation's idol. He retired to his beautiful Tennessee estate, the Hermitage, where he died June 3, 1845.

MARTIN VAN BUREN

Martin Van Buren was born at Kinderhook, New York, December 5, 1782. He was the first President of the United States not born a British subject. He was given a thorough schooling, studied law, and was admitted to the New York bar in 1803. Five years later he became a judicial officer of Columbia County, New York, and in 1812 he was elected State Senator. A short time later he was appointed attorney-general of New York, but political enmity caused his removal from that office in 1819. In February, 1821, he was elected to the United States Senate, served, and was re-elected, only to resign to accept the governorship of the State of New York in 1828.

MARTIN VAN BUREN

Van Buren was an ardent Jackson man in the election of 1828. and when Jackson became president, the New Yorker was rewarded with the position of Secretary of State. Three years later he was appointed minister to the Court of King James, but the Senate refused to confirm the president's appointment. At the next presidential election he became vice-president under Jackson, and at the close of Jackson's second administration,

he became President of the United States, having received a majority in the electoral college of 1836.

During Van Buren's administration the financial bubble which Andrew Jackson had inflated suddenly burst. Shortly after his inauguration banks began failing by the scores and the worst panic this country has ever suffered began. A special session of Congress was called to provide relief measures. This action on the part of the president had some effect in staying the nation at the brink of bankruptcy, but when Van Buren ran for reelection in 1840 he was easily defeated by Harrison.

Martin Van Buren did not retire to private life immediately after this defeat. In the primaries of 1844 he made a political faux-pas and failed to receive his party's nomination. In 1848 he made a presidential campaign on the Free Soil ticket, opposing the admission of slavery into any of the territories, but he did not receive a single electoral vote.

After this third defeat, Van Buren retired to his home at Kinderhook, New York, where he died July 24, 1862.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

William Henry Harrison was born at Berkeley, Virginia, February 9, 1773, the son of Benjamin Harrison, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He attended Hampden Sydney College, but left school before completing his course to become an Indian fighter. He enlisted, was given a commission in the

First Infantry, and was sent to Fort Washington in Ohio. He distinguished himself in the Indian wars, was cited by General Anthony Wayne, and was given the command of Fort Washington.

In 1798 President Adams appointed the young captain Secretary of Ohio Territory, but he resigned soon after to become territorial delegate to Congress. Two years later he was appointed governor of Indiana Territory. In this post, Harrison did much to placate the savage Indians, and, in 1809, he concluded a treaty with them whereby they sold three million acres of land to the government.

WM. HENRY HARRISON

Tecumseh, chief of the Shawnees, was dissatisfied with this treaty, however, and, although Harrison succeeded in striking up a personal friendship with the Indian leader, he was not able to avert the tribes being coerced by the British and beginning another Indian war. The governor, at the head of some 800 men, began a march to establish a military out-post near Tippecanoe, an Indian village on the upper Wabash. Near that place, early on the morning of November 7, 1811, his force was ambushed by the Indians, and, although the ensuing battle was a victory for the

white men, it was won at the cost of many lives.

At the beginning of the War of 1812, Governor Harrison was given a major general's commission in the Kentucky militia, with chief command of American military movements in the West. In March, 1813, he received a similar commission in the regular army. The following October he invaded Canada, overtook the retreating British general, Proctor, and put the combined British and Indian army to rout, a victory which brought to Harrison as great a popularity as the Battle of New Orleans gave General Andrew Jackson.

In subsequent years he became congressman (1816-1819) United States Senator (1824-1828) and minister to Colombia. At the election of President Jackson in 1829, he was recalled, and retired to his farm at North Bend, Ohio. He was the Whig candidate for president in 1836, but was defeated by Van Buren. Four years later, however, to the tune of gurgling hard cider jugs and the slogan "Tippecanoe and Tyler too!" he was sung into the presidency.

The victory was short-lived for the old Indian fighter. Late in March after his inauguration he became seriously ill with pneumonia, and he died on April 4, 1841, one month after he had taken his oath of office.

JOHN TYLER

John Tyler was born at Greenway, Virginia, March 29, 1790. After graduating from William and Mary College in 1807, he took up the study of law, and was admitted to the bar in

1809. At the age of 21 he was elected to the state legislature and held that office until 1816, meanwhile acting as a captain in the militia during the War of 1812.

At 26 he was sent to the House of Representatives, where, in his two terms, he took stands opposing the Missouri Compromise and the protective tariff. In 1821 ill health compelled him to retire from public life for a time, but in 1823 he again returned to the Viriginia legislature. Two years later he became governor of Virginia, and in 1826 he went to the United States Senate. He supported Jackson in the election of 1832, aligned himself with the president in the South Carolina nullification quarrel, but condemned Jackson's methods of wrecking the United States Bank, although he opposed the rechartering of that institution. He was the "State-rights" Whigs' candidate for vice-president in 1836, failed to be elected, but four years later was placed on the victorious Whig ticket with William Henry Harrison. As provided by the Constitution, when President Harrison died shortly after his inauguration, Tyler succeeded him.

JOHN TYLER

When he became president Tyler diverged from the policy set forth by the Whigs to

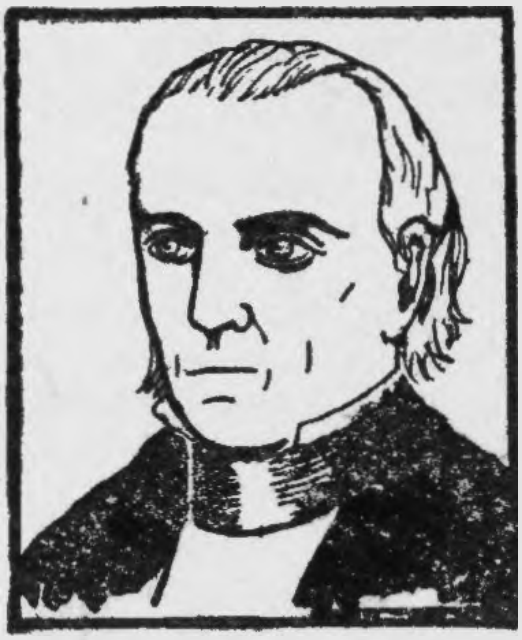
pursue an independent course. The Whigs regarded this action as traitorous, and, with the exception of Daniel Webster, Secretary of State, the President's entire cabinet resigned. The storm of protest was general over the nation, but Tyler continued in his aggressive independence, and at one time so incensed Congress with what was termed his tyrannous assumption of power that impeachment was proposed. Nothing came of this, however.

Tyler retired to his Virginia estate. The war clouds of the rebellion were gathered in those years, and in February, 1860, he was called to preside at a peace convention in Washington. When he returned from this assembly he advised his native state to secede from the Union. When this was done Tyler became a member of the southern confederacy's provisional congress. Later he was elected to the permanent congress, but he died in Richmond before he could take up the duties of that office, January 18, 1862.

JAMES K. POLK

James Knox Polk was born in Mecklenberg, North Carolina, November 2, 1795. He was given private preparatory instruction in his boyhood, and in 1815 he entered the University of North Carolina. There he applied himself diligently, and when he was graduated three years later he stood at the head of his class. Having prepared himself for law, he was admitted to the bar in 1820, moved to Columbia (now in Tennessee) and quickly built up a thriving practice and a reputation as a stump speaker.

In 1833 he was elected to the state legislature, and, two years later, he was sent to Congress where he remained until 1839, becoming Speaker of the House in 1835. In the campaign of 1839 he was the successful candidate for governor of Tennessee. Two years later he again ran for that office, and was defeated in the Whig landslide.



JAMES K. POLK

When the Texas dilemma came up, he declared in favor of the immediate annexation of the territory in the Democratic convention at Baltimore, May, 1844, and received the presidential nomination of his party on the strength of that declaration. In the election that followed the Democrats were completely victorious, and in March Polk was inaugurated.

Since Mexico had never relinquished her claim on the Texas territory, war was inevitable. In the South the war was popular, since it meant added slave territory, but in the North it was regarded as one of conquest. Without waiting for the declaration of war, made May 13, 1846, General Taylor, stationed in southern Texas, invaded Mexico. His campaign was a series of victories. Peace was signed in February, 1848, after General Winfield Scott, in chief command of the American

forces, had captured Mexico City, the capital. By the terms of the treaty, the United States received Texas in consideration of the payment of fifteen million dollars and the assumption of some three million dollars of the Mexican debt.

At the close of his administration President Polk retired to his home in Tennessee, where he died June 15, 1849.

ZACHARY TAYLOR

Zachary Taylor was born in Orange County, Virginia, September 24, 1784. His father had been an officer in the Revolution. He moved to Kentucky when Zachary was in his early infancy, and Taylor's childhood was spent in the backwoods. When, in 1808, this country began preparing for a war with England, young Zachary applied for a commission in the regular army, and was made an infantry lieutenant, to be promoted to a captaincy two years later. He was stationed at Fort Harrison in Indiana Territory, and while there was made a brevet major by the president. At the close of the war Taylor was reduced to the rank of captain. Indignant at this, he resigned his commission, only to be restored as a major. He rose to the rank of a lieutenant-colonel,

ZACHARY TAYLOR

was placed in command of Fort Snelling, and became a colonel in 1832, in which year the outbreak of the Black Hawk war came. He conducted his campaign against the Indians with such success that five years later he was sent to Florida where the aborigines were contesting the white invasion.

A short time before Taylor's arrival Osceola, leader of the warring Seminoles had been imprisoned while in the American camp under a flag of truce, a despicable piece of treachery. Osceola died in prison, but the Indians contined in their fight, and gave General Taylor some of the most severe conflicts he had ever experienced. His conduct of the war was not satisfactory to the administration, and, although he was honored by being breveted brigadier-general, he was removed from the field in April, 1838.

General Taylor took up his residence in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, only to be called into action once more in 1845 when the Mexican War threatened. His brilliant victories in Mexico made him a national idol, and he was made the Whig presidential nominee in 1848 on the strength of this popularity. This was done despite the fact that Taylor himself had no political ambition, and that such Whig leaders as Daniel Webster referred to him throughout the campaign as "an ignorant frontier colonel." The knowledge that he was a slave holder split the Whig party, but the fetish of rewarding military heroes with public office prevailed, and Taylor became president in 1849. He died in office, July 9, 1850.

MILLARD FILLMORE

Millard Fillmore was born in Cayuga County, New York, February 7, 1800. He was the son of a poor farmer, and was largely self-educated. At the age of 14 he was apprenticed to a wool-carder, but he secured his release from this work to study law, teaching school to support himself the while. He was admitted as a practicing attorney in the Erie County court of common pleas in 1823, and six years later became counselor of the New York supreme court. His reputation as an able attorney grew, he became affiliated with the infant Whig party, and in 1828 he was elected to the state legislature where he served until 1832, when he was sent to Congress. There he remained for three terms. He received the gubernatorial nomination on the Whig ticket in New York in 1844, but he was defeated. In 1847, however, he was elected state comptroller, and served out one term.

MILLARD FILLMORE

Fillmore was elected on the Whig ticket with Taylor in 1848, and as vice-president, became president when Taylor died in July, 1850. Those were turbulent times for the United

States of America. The Civil War was brewing, and the slavery question, in all its bitterness, was being debated. At the advice of his cabinet, he signed the fugitive slave bill (which provided for the return of runaway slaves to their masters), making it a federal law. This action incurred for him the bitter hatred of the abolitionists, who regarded it as an act of sheer cowardice, and his popularity in the North, the Whig stronghold, was given a deathblow.

At the end of his term, Fillmore did not go completely out of the public eye. He broke with the Whigs during his administration, but in the election of 1856 he was nominated as a presidential candidate by the so-called Native American party. He received the electoral votes of a single state—Maryland. That was his last appearance as a politician. He made a European tour, returned to the United States and lived to see the rebellion put down and the work of reconstruction begun. He died in Buffalo, March 7, 1874.

FRANKLIN PIERCE

Franklin Pierce was born at Hillsboro, New Hampshire, November 23, 1804. His father served as a soldier in the Revolution and as governor of New Hampshire. Young Pierce was graduated from Bowdoin College in 1824 in the same class with Henry W. Longfellow and Nathaniel Hawthorne. He studied law and began its practice in 1827. As a supporter of the Jackson ticket in the election of 1829, he

FRANKLIN PIERCE

became a member of the state legislature in that year, and succeeded himself three times. In 1833 he was elected to Congress and remained there until 1837, when he was elected to the Senate, becoming the youngest member. In 1842, however, he resigned and returned to Concord to resume his law practice. Ensuing years brought offers of other political honors. In 1845 a vacancy in the United States Senate brought a tender of that place to him. The nomination as gubernatorial candidate, and, soon after, the office of United States attorney general, came his way, but he declined all of these honors.

War brought Pierce back to public life. At the outbreak of the Mexican War he enlisted as a private, but soon was appointed a colonel, and, in March, 1847, was commissioned a brigadier-general by the president. He served with General Winfield Scott's forces in Mexico, and was actively engaged until the termination of the war, although without special distinction.

After the war he took up the practice of law in Concord once more. His support of the anti-abolition program brought him the Democratic nomination in 1852, and at the close of his

contest with General Scott, the Whig nominee, he was elected by an overwhelming majority.

The war clouds continued to gather steadily throughout Pierce's administration. A bloody civil war broke out in Kansas over the slavery question, and continued until 1858, two years after he had retired.

Pierce died at Concord, October 8, 1869.

JAMES BUCHANAN

James Buchanan was born near Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, April 23, 1791. He was educated in the public school, and, at 18, was graduated from Dickinson College. He studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1812. Two years later he was elected to the state legislature, served a second term, and went to Congress in 1820. There he remained for ten years, serving through Monroe's prosperous era and into Jackson's first administration. In 1831 Jackson appointed him minister to Russia, and he lived in that country until 1833. About a year after he returned to America he was appointed to the United States Senate to fill a vacancy that existed. In 1837 he was offered a place in Van Buren's cabinet, but he declined this, accepting in its stead a re-election to the

JAMES BUCHANAN

Senate. In 1843 he was elected for a third term, when he was offered and accepted the place of Secretary of State in President Polk's cabinet. Acting in this capacity, he negotiated the Oregon boundary treaty with Great Britain in 1846, and favored the admission of Texas into the Union.

Afer retiring to his Pennsylvania estate in 1848, Buchanan renewed his interest in politics by supporting Pierce in the presidential election of 1852. When Pierce became president he reciprocated by appointing the Pennsylvanian as minister to England in 1853. He remained in that country until 1856 when he returned to America to accept the Democratic nomination for president. He was elected the following fall.

James Buchanan was the only bachelor president, the tradition being that he was devoted to the memory of a boyhood sweetheart who had died a short while before they were to be married.

The famous Dred Scott decision came during Buchanan's administration. This was to the effect that a slave owner could take his Negroes anywhere in the United States without losing ownership, and, moreover, that Congress had no authority to prohibit slavery in any of the territories. This nullified the Missouri Compromise of 1820, and, since six of the eight members of the United States Supreme Court making the decision were slave owners, the Northerners refused to consider it as final. Two years later John Brown, fanatical abolitionist, grew aggressive to the point of anarchy, cap-

tured a United States arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, and for that was hanged at Charles Town, December 2, 1859. The chasm yawned. In the fall four tickets had candidates in the presidential election, and the Republican candidate, Abraham Lincoln, was elected. This was the last straw. Before James Buchanan left his office in March, 1861, seven southern states had severed their relations with the Union.

Buchanan retired to his farm near Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and died there June 1, 1868.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Abraham Lincoln was born in Hardin County, Kentucky, February 12, 1809. His father was illiterate, but his mother was a woman of some refinement, and she contributed much to Lincoln's early education. The family moved to Indiana when the boy was seven years old, and there he worked hard on his father's small farm. His mother died when he was nine, and his father remarried a short time later.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Young Lincoln was an insatiable reader, but books were scarce in that crude, sparsely settled section, and sometimes he walked for miles to get something to read. When he reached his majority in 1830, he moved with his

father to Macon County, Illinois. He had now grown to be an ungainly giant, six feet four inches in height. He split the rails needed to fence his father's small farm, and continued the work for neighboring planters. This occupation later brought him the derisive nickname of "The Rail Splitter." While hired out to a farmer Abraham built a flat boat and took it, loaded with produce, down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. After his return to Illinois he was employed in a village store at New Salem, continued his reading, and at 22 gave no apparent promise of ever amounting to anything.

When the Black Hawk Indian war broke out he enlisted in the volunteers, and received a captain's commission only to be mustered out several weeks later. The stirrings of ambition had now begun, and when he returned home he announced himself a candidate for the legislature. When he was defeated he decided to become a merchant, giving his note in payment for the village store. The business failed, he was left deep in debt, and his next few years were devoted to the closest economy and the hardest work in an effort to pay back all he owed. He became village postmaster at the age of 24, became assistant to the county surveyor, took up the study of law, never relinquishing his interest in the state's politics. A year later he received a second nomination to the state legislature, and this time he was elected. He walked a hundred miles to Springfield, the capital, remained there in the legis-

lature for four consecutive terms, and refused a fifth nomination. He now formed a law partnership at the capital and settled to the study and practice of law.

In 1846 he was elected to Congress, where, in his one term, he became a leader of the Whig party. When his term was finished he seemed to tire of public life, and once more took up his successful law practice. But he was ruffled by the repeal of the Missouri Compromise in 1857, and, when the Republican party began to take form in Illinois, he came forward as a leader and a candidate for the United States Senate against Stephen A. Douglas, author of the bill. A series of warm debates followed which added to Lincoln's popularity, but which resulted in Douglas' triumph in the November elections. In 1860, though, he was the Republican presidential nominee, and as such he was successful. His election was the signal for the rebellious slavery states to begin their secession, and when Lincoln was inaugurated in 1861 he found his Union sundered, and he was confronted with the tremendous task of guiding his nation through a bloody civil war.

Lincoln was re-elected in 1864, and the war closed with the surrender of Lee at Appomattox Court House in April, 1865. The president began formulating plans for reconstruction. But a few days after the surrender, while he sat in his theater box with Mrs. Lincoln one John Wilkes Booth, actor-idealist, fired a pistol bullet into the Emancipator's brain. The president died the next morning, April 15, 1865.

ANDREW JOHNSON

Andrew Johnson was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, December 29, 1808. His father died when Andrew was a baby. His mother was poverty stricken. At the age of ten he was apprenticed to a tailor. At that time he was totally illiterate. At 16 he took up his work as a journeyman tailor, meanwhile having learned to read and write. Two years later his mother and step-father decided to migrate to Greenville, Tennessee, and Andrew accompanied them, driving the blind nag to which was hitched a cart containing their household possessions. In Tennessee Johnson met and married one Eliza McArdle. She was an educated woman, and she contributed largely to her husband's education making possible his later success.

ANDREW JOHNSON

Once Greenville was reached Johnson entered the politics of the town, succeeded in being elected an alderman three times, and, at the age of 22, mayor. In 1835 he ran for the legislature, was elected, and, four years later, re-elected. His popularity grew and two years after his election to the state senate in 1841 he was elected Congressman. He supported the annexation of Texas

during his term, and on the strength of that he was given a seond term in Congress. He remained there until 1853, when he was defeated at the hands of the Whigs. Johnson was a dauntless one, however, and he soon announced his candidacy for the governorship of Tennessee. He was elected and held that office until 1857 when he was sent to the United States Senate.

Until this time Johnson had been regarded as a pro-slavery man, and a champion of the Southern cause. Indeed, in the election of 1860 he threw his support to a pro-slavery candidate for president, and on such a platform was returned to Congress. When the test came, however, when time came to make a choice between slavery and secession, on the one hand, and abolition and the Union on the other, he became the most feverish of patriots and denounced the secessionists on the floor of Congress with a vehemence that surpassed that of the most bitter abolitionist. This a great many of his constituents considered downright treachery, and feeling ran so high that, on one occasion at least, he narrowly escaped being lynched. His loyalty to the government brought for him an appointment as military governor of Tennessee on March 4, 1862. Eastern Tennessee was, for the most part, loyal, but the Southern sympathizers in the middle and western districts, Johnson ruled with an iron hand. When Abraham Lincoln was renominated in 1864, he was placed on the ticket as vice-president.

When, at Lincoln's death, Johnson came to

the president's chair, his position was not a pleasant one. Inspired by a bitter hatred for the southern aristocracy he settled on a drastic course of reconstruction, later in his administration swinging to the other extreme in his sympathies. As a result he pleased no one. His quarrel with the Senate grew so bitter that he was impeached for autocratic assumption of power, brought to trial, and escaped conviction by a single vote.

When his term was finished he returned to Tennessee and sought vindication at the polls, once as a candidate for Congress, once as a senatorial candidate. He was twice defeated. He was finally absolved in 1875 when he was elected to the Senate. But he served only at a single extra session. While visiting his daughter he suffered a paralytic stroke and died July 30, 1875.

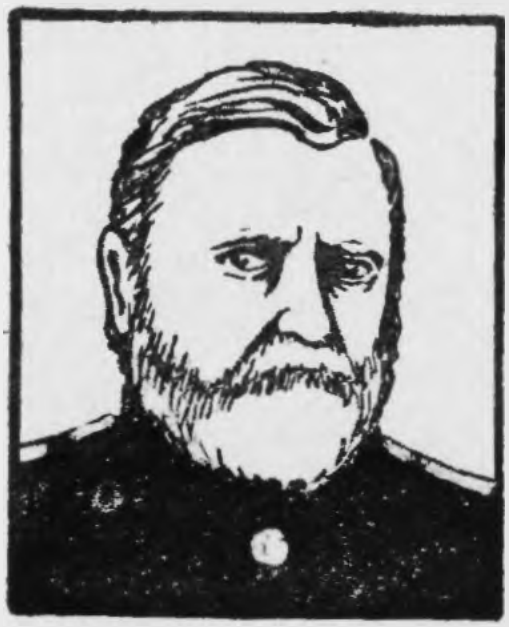
ULYSSES S. GRANT

Ulysses Simpson Grant was born at Point Pleasant, Ohio, April 27, 1822. His father was a tanner and a farmer, and Grant's boyhood was spent in the country. At 17 he received an appointment to the military academy at West Point. Grant had been christened Hiram Ulysses, but a clerical mistake at the academy recorded him as Ulysses Simpson, and he felt no inclination to correct the error. He was graduated in 1843, standing at the middle of his class, which gave him the commission of a brevet second lieutenant in the infantry. He was stationed at Jefferson Barracks near St.

Louis until September, 1845, when he joined General Taylor's command for the Mexican War. He served actively in nearly all the most important battles of the war, distinguished himself, and was a brevet captain when peace came. He returned to the United States with his regiment, and in August, 1848, on a leave of absence in St. Louis he was married.

After being transferred from various posts and becoming a regular captain in August, 1853, Grant finally resigned his commission, set up in the real estate business in St. Louis, farmed, became a clerk in his father's hardware store at Galena, Illinois. Apparently he was a shiftless sort, without promise.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, however, the man raised a company of volunteers and marched to Springfield to offer his services. He was enlisted, became a recruiting officer, a colonel in the infantry, a railroad guard in Missouri, attracting little attention until the September following the beginning of the war. By this time he had become a brigadier-general of volunteers with command over southeastern Missouri. After some sharp skirmishes with the Confederates, he received permission to attack Fort Henry on the Tennessee River



ULYSSES S. GRANT

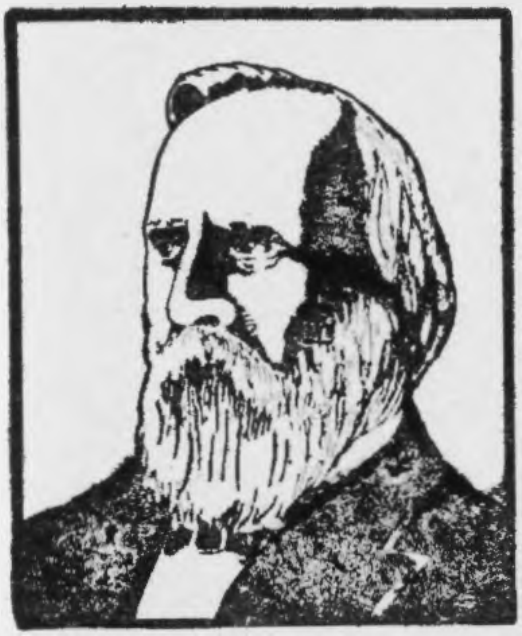
and, 11 miles away, Fort Donelson on the Cumberland, both rebel strongholds. Fort Henry succumbed quickly, but the other vigorously resisted Grant's Siege. The Union held on with bull-dog tenacity, however, and Fort Donelson fell with a loss of one general and 15,000 men captured, February, 1862. Grant had won the first brilliant Union victory of the war, and his ascendancy began. It continued two months later when he turned defeat for the Union troops into victory, and routed the Confederates under Beauregard in the terrific battle of Pittsburg Landing, April 6 and 7, 1862. Citations, promotions and victories followed toe on heel for Grant. He pinned a whole army up in the Fort at Vicksburg, and Vicksburg fell. Grant was placed at the head of the army in the west. The fierce assaults and Union victories of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge in Tennessee followed. All other Union generals were meeting with defeat and failure. Grant was called to Washington early in 1864, made a lieutenant-general, took command of the Army of the Potomac. The days of the war were numbered. Where other Union leaders had gone down like matchwood, Grant led armies to victory. Lee, the Confederate commander, surrendered to Grant April 9, 1865, and the war was ended.

Grant was nominated to the presidency by the Republicans in 1868. Again the people rewarded the military idol. He was re-elected in 1872. After completing his second term, the general made a tour of the world. When he returned to America he became a partner in a

banking house, went bankrupt through his associates' dishonesty, and set about to repay his debtors by writing his memoirs. This enterprise met with vast success, but before he had completed his work a cancer appeared at the root of his tongue. He completed his writing, retired to Mount McGregor, New York, and there died from the disease July 23, 1885. He was buried in a monumental tomb in Riverside Park, New York City.

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES

Rutherford Birchard Hayes was born in Delaware, Ohio, October 4, 1822. His father died before his birth, but his mother was left well provided for, and young Hayes was given a good education, graduating from Kenyon College in Ohio at the age of 20. He studied law at Harvard, completed his course in January, 1845, and the next month was admitted to the bar in Ohio.



RUTHERFORD B. HAYES

He became a successful lawyer in Cincinnati, Ohio, allied himself with the new Republican party, was elected city solicitor. At the outbreak of the Civil War he was made captain of a volunteer company. The following June he was appointed lieutenant-colonel, and a short time later

he was actively engaged in the war. In September, 1862, he was wounded while leading a charge, returned to his home to convalesce. While there he was promoted to a colonelcy. Morgan, a Southern raider, led an invasion into Ohio in the summer of 1863, and it was Colonel Hayes who met the rebel raiders and compelled them to surrender. Throughout the war he continued to distinguish himself so that in March, 1865 he was breveted a major-general for bravery in action.

Still in the field of war, Hayes was nominated to Congress in August, 1864. While he did not return home for the political campaign, he was elected and took his seat the December following the close of the war. Before the close of his term he was nominated as the Republican gubernatorial candidate in Ohio, June, 1867, and he was elected in the close race that followed. He was re-elected in 1869. After serving his second term as governor, he wished to retire, but accepted the Republican nomination for Congress in 1872. In this race he was defeated, and he retired to his Fremont, Ohio, home, only to be nominated for governor again in 1875. This time he was elected, and before the end of his term his national popularity became so apparent, the Republican National Convention nominated him for the presidency in June, 1876.

The ensuing contest was one of the most bitter in American history. The Democratic candidate was Samuel J. Tilden of New York. When the electoral college convened it was found that Tilden and Hayes had an equal

number of votes, excepting from the count Florida and Louisiana, where "examining boards," Republican in their sympathies, had charged fraud and thrown out a majority of the Democratic votes. The Democrats regarded this as illegal, and an Electoral Commission was appointed to settle the dispute. As a result Hayes was elected president by a single electoral vote.

He served an uneventful term, retired at its conclusion to his Ohio home, and there died, January 17, 1893.

JAMES A. GARFIELD

James Abram Garfield was born in Orange, Ohio, November 19, 1831. James' father died while he was an infant, but his mother saw to it that he was given an excellent elementary education. When he was 17, the youth went to Cleveland, planning to become a sailor. Instead he hired out as a mule driver on the Ohio Canal tow path. Later he returned home, attended Chester Academy, near his home, entered Hiram College, earning his way as a teacher of English and Latin. In 1854 he went to Williams, was graduated at the head of his class, and returned to Ohio, in 1856 as a professor of

JAMES A. GARFIELD

Greek and Latin in Hiram College. A year later he was made president of that institution.

Up until this time Garfield had evinced no especial interest in politics, but in 1859 he allied himself with the Republicans, and was nominated and elected to the Ohio state senate. Two years later, when the war came, he was given a lieutenant-colonel's commission in a volunteer regiment. He was soon promoted to a colonelcy, and was ordered south with his regiment. He served in Kentucky with such distinction that he was commissioned a brigadier-general in January, 1862. At the terrific fight of Chickamauga the Union forces were defeated, and it was Garfield who made the ride to General Thomas, saving the Union army from complete annihilation. A promotion rewarded this service, and Garfield became a major general.

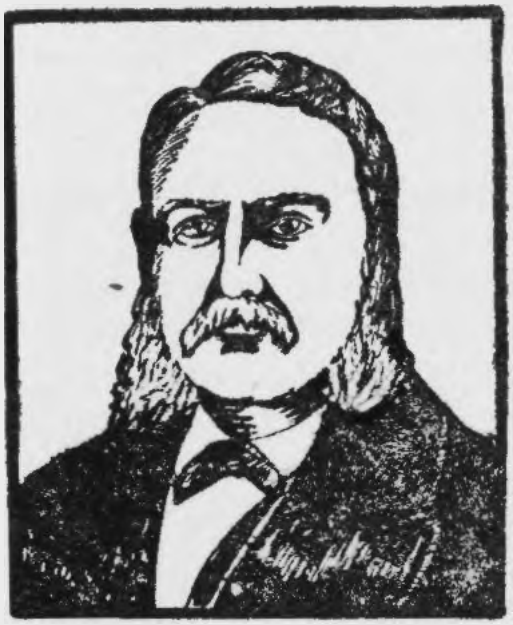
During his absence, Garfield had been elected to Congress from his district, and at the urgency of President Lincoln, he resigned his commission and took his seat more than a year after the election. He served there through the termination of the war. In 1877 he was a member of the electoral commission, and three years later he was elected to the Senate from Ohio. The same year, however, he was the "dark horse" nominee of the Republican national convention. The following fall he was elected president.

On July 2, 1881, President Garfield stood conversing with his Secretary of State, James G. Blaine, in a Washington railway station. He was waiting for a train to take him to New

England. One Charles Guiteau stepped up, fired a pistol bullet into Garfield's back. The president lived until September 19, when he died at Elberon, New Jersey. Guiteau was hanged in the Washington jail the following June.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR

Chester Alan Arthur was born in Fairfield, Vermont, October 5, 1830. He entered Union College and was graduated in 1848. After his graduation he studied law, conducting the while a boys' college preparatory class. In 1851 he became principal of an academy at North Pownal, Vermont. Two years later he went to New York City, where he again took up his law studies and the same year secured admittance to the bar.



CHESTER A. ARTHUR

Arthur was strongly anti-slavery in his sentiments, and when the first Republican convention of the state was held at Saratoga in 1856, he was a delegate. After the outbreak of the Civil War, having previously served on the governor's staff as an engineer-in-chief, with the rank of brigadier-general of the militia, he became acting quartermaster-general of the state. At the end of his term, December 31, 1862, he resumed his law

practice in New York City, but continued his political interests.

He was appointed collector of port in New York by President Grant in 1871. He held this office for eight years, when he was removed by President Hayes.

At the Republican national convention in Chicago he was placed on the ticket as the vice-presidental nominee, with Garfield for president. When Garfield died as the result of an assassin's bullet in September, 1881, Arthur was at his home in New York City. He immediately took the oath of office and became President of the United States.

Throughout President Arthur's administration there was an era of prosperity. The financial panic of 1873 and its effects had passed. The South, invigorated by Northern capital, was beginning to take new life. The final centennial anniversary of the Revolution was celebrated at Yorktown, October 19, 1881, and our friendships with Great Britain and other European powers were renewed at the time.

It was during Arthur's term, also, that the final reduction of letter postage to two cents an ounce was made, and strides were taken further to improve the postal system.

President Arthur was in the running for the Republican presidential nomination of 1884, but the nomination finally went to James G. Blaine. Arthur retired to his practice of law in New York City, where he died from an apoplectic stroke, November 18, 1886.

GROVER CLEVELAND

Grover Cleveland was born in Caldwell, New Jersey, March 18, 1837. His father was a Presbyterian minister, and frequent removals interrupted—not to say interfered with—Grover's early education. At 16 he became a clerk in the New York Institution for the Blind. Two years later, while visiting relatives in Buffalo, New York, he accepted a position with a law firm, studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1859.

Cleveland entered politics in 1863, when he was appointed an assistant to the district attorney of Erie County. Three years after that he was a defeated Democratic candidate for district attorney. He formed a law partnership, resumed his practice until 1870, when he was elected sheriff of Erie County. He served his term, resumed his law practice once more and in 1881 was elected Mayor of Buffalo. This political triumph was followed by the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in September, 1882. In a revolt against the Republican "machine" he was elected governor of New York by an overwhelming majority. From that time on Cleveland was a marked man in poli-

GROVER CLEVELAND

ties, and at the Democratic national convention two years later he was nominated for the presidency.

In the campaign that followed a wooden-headed Republican preacher made his celebrated "Rum, Romanism and Rebellion" fluke, and Cleveland defeated Blaine, the Republican candidate, by a narrow margin. The most outstanding feature of Cleveland's administration was his discarding of the "spoils system" brought into favor by Andrew Jackson.

He was renominated for a second term by the Democrats, opposing Benjamin Harrison on the Republican ticket. The popular vote gave Cleveland a majority in the subsequent election, but the electoral vote elected Harrison. Cleveland retired to his law practice in New York City. In 1892, however, he was again given the Democratic nomination, and in the election the following fall defeated Harrison. Thus he became the only president to occupy the unique position of serving two terms not consecutive.

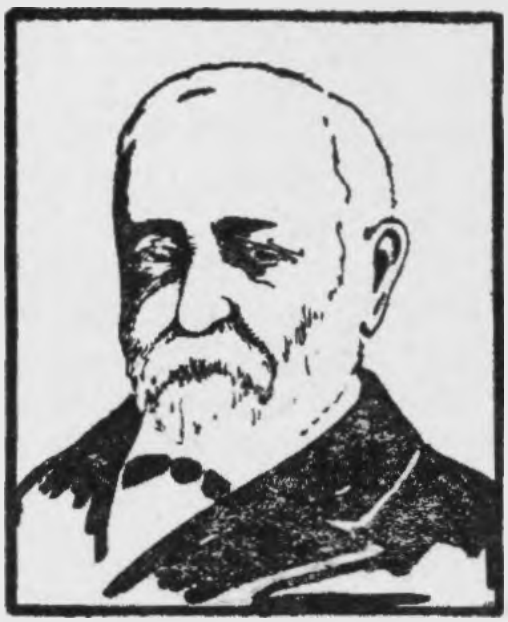
Features of Cleveland's second administration were the nation-wide railroad strike of 1894 and the Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893.

At the close of his second term Cleveland retired to private life once more, and died June 24, 1908.

BENJAMIN HARRISON

Benjamin Harrison was born at North Bend, Ohio, August 20, 1833. His great-grandfather was a signer of the Declaration of Independence

and his grandfather, William Henry Harrison, was a President of the United States. His father, a wealthy farmer, sent him to Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio. Harrison received his degree there, married a professor's daughter, and went to Indianapolis to practice law.



BENJAMIN HARRISON

In 1860 he was elected reporter of the Indiana Supreme Court, but he vacated that office two years later, when war came, to accept a colonelcy of an infantry regiment. He served through the war, was present at the surrender of the Confederates under Johnston, and was mustered out as a brevet brigadier-general.

On his return he was re-elected to the office he had held before the war; he served his term, and then resumed his law practice. He was the Republican nominee for governor in 1876, but he was defeated with the rest of his ticket. Four years later he was a delegate to the Republican national convention that nominated Garfield for president.

He was elected to the United States Senate in 1881. While in the Senate he established a reputation which led to his being the Republican presidential nominee in the election of 1888. After a strenuous campaign in which Harrison made almost a hundred speeches he

was elected president, defeating Grover Cleveland, and was inaugurated the following March.

Harrison's administration was marked by the trouble with Chile, the Bering Sea dispute with Russia, and the beginning of negotiations with a provisional government in Hawaii for the annexation of the islands to the United States. He handled these affairs in a manner that won the approval of his own party, at least, and when the Republicans met at Minneapolis in 1892 for their national convention he was renominated. In the election that followed Grover Cleveland defeated him. Harrison retired to his law practice in Indianapolis at the close of his term.

He died of pneumonia, March 13, 1901.

WILLIAM McKINLEY

William McKinley was born at Niles, Ohio, January 29, 1843. He graduated from an academy at 16, and entered Allegheny College at Meadville, Pennsylvania, but illness forced him to return home. After his recovery he accepted a place as a country school teacher. The war of the rebellion came when he was 18. He volunteered, became a private in the Twenty-third Ohio regiment, one of the most famous of the war. After serving in the ranks for over a year he was made a sergeant, then a second lieutenant, and finally was commissioned a first lieutenant. Three months later he was detailed as aide-de-camp to General Rutherford B. Hayes. He was actively engaged in some

of the most terrific battles of the war, and, on the recommendation of General Sherman, he became a brevet major.

Mustered out at the age of 22, young McKinley took up the study of law, was graduated from law school at Albany, New York, and began his practice in Canton, Ohio, in 1867. He began his political career by being elected district attorney of Stark County. In a second race for the office two years later he was defeated, but in 1876 he was a successful congressional candidate. For fourteen years he represented his district in Congress. Defeated as a candidate for an eighth term, he was nominated by the Republican party as governor of Ohio, was elected and re-elected.

WILLIAM McKINLEY

At three consecutive Republican national conventions McKinley had been talked of as a presidential nominee. He was proposed in 1884, four years later he refused the honor, being a delegate for another candidate, and in 1892, when the same situation existed, he refused a second time. By 1896, however, he had gained such a reputation as governor of Ohio, he could no longer ignore the urgency, and he was nominated for the presidency on the first ballot. William Jennings Bryan was the Democratic

nominee and made his race as an exponent of the theory that 16 parts of silver to every one part of gold had been placed in the earth in God-given ratio. Bryan canvassed the nation, making as many as 20 speeches a day. McKinley remained at home and allowed Mark Hanna to conduct his campaign. In the election that followed, McKinley's majority in the popular vote was nearly a million.

During McKinley's first administration a war was fought with Spain. It was declared April 25, 1898. Other features of his term were the sinking of the battleship *Maine* in Havana harbor; the annexation of Porto Rico, the Philippines, Guam, Hawaii, and Tutuila; the American interference in and organization of Cuba.

McKinley was again the Republican nominee in 1900, and again Bryan was his opponent. In this election Bryan was defeated a second time, and McKinley began his second term of office in March, 1901. In September of the same year he attended an exposition at Buffalo, New York. While he was shaking hands in a crowd Leon Czolgosz, anarchist, shot him down. He lived eight days after. Death came to him September 14, 1901.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Theodore Roosevelt was born in New York City, October 27, 1858. He received his degree at Harvard in 1880, and after a voyage to Europe studied law in New York City. His entrance in politics was made in 1881 when he was elected to the state legislature. After

serving a second term there he retired to his ranch in Dakota (then one state), punched cows, wrote two books, *Ranch Life* and *The Winning of the West.* In 1886 he returned to New York, accepted the Republican nomination for mayor, but was defeated. He was then appointed to the Civil Service Commission by the president, resigned that place in 1894 to become police commissioner of New York City. Three years later he was made Assistant Secretary of Navy. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War he resigned to organize a calvary regiment called "The Rough Riders."

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

With his service in Cuba Roosevelt established a wide popular reputation, and when he returned to New York at the close of the war he was elected governor of the state. His reputation persisted, and at the Republican National Convention in June, 1900, he was the vice-presidential nominee. It is said that his reputation had startled the conservative Republican "machine," and that this was an effort to shelve the man. President McKinley died as the result of an assassin's bullet in September, 1901, however, and Roosevelt became president.

Theodore Roosevelt had the knack of doing

the thing that would appeal to the popular mind. He was the original presidential "go-getter." His popularity grew to such proportions that in the presidential race of 1904 he defeated his Democratic opponent by more than two million votes. In 1908 he preferred to consider that he had served two terms, and could not be persuaded to accept the Republican nomination.

At the close of his term, in 1909, Roosevelt became associate editor of *The Outlook*, resumed his writing, became the leader of a scientific expedition to Africa. When he returned to America he had changed his mind about his third term prejudice. The conservative Republican party, however, had forgotten his popularity, and Taft was renominated at the convention of 1912 in spite of Roosevelt's strong candidacy. Roosevelt bolted, held a convention of his own in August, and made the race, insisting that he had only served a term and a part of term, stressing his progressiveness. The party was split. What may or may not have been a clever campaign stunt occurred at a Roosevelt address in Milwaukee when one Schrank, later adjudged insane, wounded the former president with a pistol shot. In the general election, after a bitterly personal contest between Taft and Roosevelt, Wilson, the Democratic Party's nominee, was elected.

Roosevelt retired, coming to public light in one last attempt when America entered the World War. He offered to raise a volunteer company similar to the one he had led in

Cuba. His offer was not accepted. He died at his home in Oyster Bay, New York, January 5, 1919, after a brief illness.

WILLIAM H. TAFT

William Howard Taft was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, September 15, 1857. He was graduated from Yale in 1878, studied law, was admitted to the bar. In the ten years that followed, Taft engaged in state politics in Ohio, having affiliated himself with the Republican party. In 1890 he was made Solicitor-General of the United States. He held that office for two years. While in Washington he met Theodore Roosevelt, then on the United States Civil Service Commission. They formed a close friendship which continued until the presidential campaign of 1912.

WILLIAM H. TAFT

In 1892 Taft became a judge in the United States Circuit Court. He held that position until 1900, when he was appointed President of the Philippine Commission by President McKinley. In the Philippines he won the confidence of the natives, brought into form a rudimentary nation, served as the first civil governor of the islands (1901-1904).

In 1904 he was recalled to be appointed Secretary of War in Roosevelt's cabinet. Acting in this capacity he organized a provisional government for Cuba, which became an independent republic through the peace treaty at the

close of the Spanish-American War. When the Republican National Convention met in 1908, supported by Roosevelt, he was nominated for the presidency.

In the campaign that followed, William Jennings Bryan was for a third time the Democratic party's nominee. Again Bryan was defeated by over a million votes in the popular election, and Taft was inaugurated President of the United States the following March. Although Taft had been elected on a progressive platform it was apparent, after nearly eight years of Theodore Roosevelt's "big stick" policy, that he was really very conservative. He was not the popular type of man at all. When Roosevelt returned from his African expedition he sensed this dissatisfaction. The Republican party leaders, however, were very well pleased with Taft, and he was renominated in 1912. The "Bull Moose" bolt came, and in the subsequent triangular race for the presidency the normal Republican vote was divided.

Taft retired to his law practice for a time, but in 1921 he realized a life-long ambition when President Harding appointed him Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court to succeed Edward D. White, who died in that year. Thus Taft has headed the executive branch of the government, and now heads the judicial branch, a dual honor which no other man has ever had. He is the only living ex-president of the United States (1926).

WOODROW WILSON

Woodrow Wilson was born in Staunton, Virginia, December 28, 1856. He entered Princeton University at 20, received his degree in 1879, and took up the study of law at the University of Virginia. In 1882 he began to prac-

tice law in Atlanta, Georgia, but changed his mind, went to Johns Hopkins for post graduate work in history and political science, and from that university he received his Ph.D. After his marriage at Savannah in 1885 he accepted a position at Bryn Mawr as an associate professor of history and political economy. Three years later he took a similar place at Wesleyan University, and after four years there he returned to Princeton as a professor. His popularity brought him the presidency of that institution in 1902. He immediately attracted attention by making drastic reforms in the university's entrance requirements and by attacking the school's exclusive fraternal clubs. What, to the popular mind, were his democratic ideas, probably accounted for his accentance of the Democratic gubernatorial nomination for New Jersey in 1910. He was elected, and in the two years he served he established such an enviable political record that he was entered in the running for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1912. After a bitter fight in his party's convention he was nominated. As a result of the Republican split he was elected president the following fall.

WOODROW WILSON

Two year's after Wilson's election war came to Europe and propaganda was early set to work to enlist this country's sympathies on either of the two sides. Nevertheless, America preserved neutrality throughout his first ad-

ministration, prospering meanwhile with the renewed life which the war had brought to our commerce. In the election of 1916 Wilson was sung into the presidency with the slogan, "He Kept Us Out of War." Shortly after his re-election, however, relations between this country and Germany became strained, war was declared on the Central Powers in April, 1917, and, with characteristic American impetuosity the country threw itself into a war when six months before it had decided by popular vote that it preferred neutrality.

The armistice came in 1918, and early in 1919, President Wilson with becoming independence braved criticism to attend the Paris Peace Conference. The peace treaty was signed at Versailles, June 28, 1919, and the conference at that time accepted a covenant for a League of Nations of which the President was the author. When this treaty was presented to the United States Senate for ratification, however, it was rejected. President Wilson and his followers considered this an arbitrary decision, and the League of Nations became a campaign issue in the election of 1920.

Woodrow Wilson, broken in health, defeated in ambitions, retired to his Washington residence in March, 1921. A short while before he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the second President of the United States to be so honored. He died February 3, 1924.

WARREN G. HARDING

Warren Gamaliel Harding was born in Corsica, Ohio, November 2, 1865. He attended school until he was 14 then worked for a year as printer's devil on his father's weekly newspaper. At 16 he entered Ohio Central College at Iberia, worked his way through school, and

took a Bachelor of Science degree. After that he taught school, studied law, sold insurance. Meanwhile his father, a doctor, had moved to Marion, Ohio, and had there acquired an interest in the Marion *Star*. This led to Harding's finally returning to newspaper work. He rose from typesetter to editor and owner of the *Star*, taking a keen interest in politics the while.

He early allied himself with the Republican party, and in 1900 he was elected to the Ohio State Senate on the Republican ticket. He occupied that office until 1904, when he became lieutenant-governor. Six years later, however, when he ran for governor he was defeated. In 1914 he was elected to the Senate.

WARREN G. HARDING

Warren G. Harding's political career was marked with his conservatism. At the Chicago convention of 1912 he supported Taft against Roosevelt. So when he received the Republican presidential nomination in 1920, his campaign managers gleaned the obsolete word "normalcy" from the dictionary, and the Republican campaign cry was "A Return to Normalcy." Harding was elected president by the largest majority any presidential candidate ever received, a fact accounted for by the Nineteenth Amendment, which enfranchised women.

After President Harding had taken his place as president, however, Republican normalcy be-

came so marked as to chafe the progressive element of the party. This unrest grew apace, and a bolt comparable to the one of 1912 appeared imminent. In an effort to circumvent such a break in his own party, President Harding began a cross-country tour to elucidate his policy to the people. He visited a number of the nation's largest cities, took ship for an Alaskan tour, reached the city of San Francisco. There it was that he became suddenly ill and died August 2, 1923. A funeral train brought his body across the continent to the national capitol, and returned it for burial at Marion, Ohio.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

Calvin Coolidge was born at Plymouth, Vermont, July 4, 1872. His mother died when he was 12, but his father married soon after, and his step-mother contributed to his upbringing. He attended Black River Academy at Ludlow, Vermont and later St. Johnsbury Academy, where he was prepared for college. In 1891 he entered Amherst College, and graduated four years later. He began the study of law at Northampton in 1895. Admitted to the bar less than two years after he began his preparation for the profession, he allied himself with the Republican party and became active in politics.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

His entrance was made inauspiciously enough by his being elected a member of the Northampton Common Council. He became in turn, the city solicitor of Northampton, a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives; Mayor of Northampton, a member of the Massachusetts Senate; lieutenant-governor of Massachusetts; and, finally, governor of the state.

While Coolidge was governor of Massachusetts the Boston police force went on their celebrated strike. The policemen had previously joined a labor union. Once the symbols of authority were removed pandemonium reigned in staid Boston. After a riotous night the city was put under martial law, and the militia patrolled the town until the police force was reorganized. It has been questioned whether Governor Coolidge acted with the vigor and promptness that is popularly accredited him. That does not matter so much as the fact that the quelling of the Boston police strike—whoever did it, or however it was done—spread Coolidge's reputation for being a decisive man, a firm man, a man of few words and much action, over the continent. At the Republican convention in 1920 he was nominated as the candidate for the vice-presidency, and he went into office with Harding.

President Coolidge was at his father's home in Vermont when the death of President Harding came. His father was the village justice of the peace and he immediately administered to his son the oath of office when the news of Harding's death came. Coolidge, in assuming the presidential chair, carried out his party's conservative policies with such nicety that he was nominated at the Cleveland Convention in June, 1924, as its choice for president. He was elected in November of that year with a majority

of over eight million popular votes. The progressive revolt which Harding had anticipated came, but it fizzled, although La Follette, the progressive candidate, polled nearly five million votes.